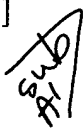


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[0071] When the system of the present invention also performs call rating/pricing, the system considers any one of the following: Pre-classification of special numbers (e.g. Help desk), dialed number (DN) Blocking (system wide: country, city, down to DN), *XXX Service codes (e.g. voice mail, *800 ad-calls), Call Center Identification, Country/City determination (incl. blocking per rate table), Rate Selection (Individualized customer to rate table mapping), and Surcharges (e.g., for ANI, DNIS, DNIS-Country, Fax, Info Digits: Operator, coin, prison). Similarly, the system can determine talk time (Hot Billing) and Route Selection and supports dynamically changeable rate tables. To keep costs low, the system chooses a least cost routing from a set of carriers to the best carrier to terminate the call in real-time. Rate-Table specific routing offers better quality routes based on price. Calls are automatically routed around T1's or Gateways that are having problems, have failed, or have been manually taken out of service for maintenance or upgrades. Remote Administration facilities enable tables to be maintained.

[0072] Obviously, numerous modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is therefore to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described herein.

Claims

- [c1]  1. A computer implemented system for managing a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, comprising: a processor; and a computer readable medium encoded with processor readable instructions that when executed by the processor implement, a network status gathering mechanism configured to ascertain a network status, a network status reporting mechanism configured to report said network status to said network operations console, and a network status reporting level determination mechanism configured to determine a level of detail to report

said network status to said network operations console based on at least one of user request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in reporting network status.

[c2] 2. The system of Claim 1, wherein: said network status reporting level determination mechanism is configured to determine said level of detail on a switch by switch basis.

[c3] 3. A method of managing a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, comprising the steps of: gathering network status; determining an appropriate reporting level at which to report network status based on at least one of user request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in providing network status; and providing network status to said network operations console at said appropriate reporting level from said determining step.

[c4] 4. A system for managing a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, comprising: means for gathering network status; means for determining an appropriate reporting level at which to report network status based on at least one of user request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in providing network status; and means for providing network status to said network operations console at said appropriate reporting level from said determining step.

[c5] 5. A computer program product, comprising: a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a processor to facilitate the management of a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, the computer program code mechanism comprising: a first computer code device configured to gather a network status; a second computer code device configured to determine an appropriate reporting level at which to report network status based on at least one of user request and a

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predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in providing network status; and a third computer code device configured to provide network status to said network operations console at said appropriate reporting level determined by said second computer code device.

Figures

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